

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1920

GLOUCESTER'S WEAK TEAM AT LYDNEY

A POINTLESS DRAW

With ten players figuring in the County match at Kingsholm, and Fred Webb (injured) and J. Harris also unavailable, Gloucester sent practically a reserve team to fulfil the return engagement with Lydney.

As the Tinplaters had drawn with Bristol and Cross Keys at home – two excellent performances – some doubt existed as to the City's weakened ranks being capable of holding the Lydney men, but the reserves were not without hope of rising to the occasion. Lydney had a good side out, and were especially strong forward.

Gloucester : G. Smith; W. Washbourn, T. Millington, J. Brown, and N. Daniell; J. Humphries and T. Burns; F. Ayliffe, N. Hayes, J. F. Lawson, J. H. Webb, G. Porter (sub.), C. Mumford, F. Mansell, and C. Merrett.

Lydney : A. J. Kerwood; F. Beard, T. Biddle, D. Clements, and G. Probert; J. Baker and A. Jenkins; W. Biddle, F. Fletcher, A. Lodge, W. Robbins, E. Darters, C. Merry, H. Wixen, and C. Walker.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis (Stroud).

The game opened in spirited style, and the Lydney forwards heeling a round of passing was attempted, but a forward pass put an end to it. The visiting forwards dribbled well, but on reaching Kerwood the latter put in a good kick to touch. Fumbling by the Lydney backs gave the City a good chance to score, and Brown got through, but his final pass was not accepted and a certain score lost.

The home forwards, headed by Lodge and Fletcher, took play to half-way, but Millington put in a good piece of defensive work. The Lydney forwards heeled, and Baker set the three-quarters going well, but Biddle's pass to Beard was too high, and a good chance of scoring was lost. Gloucester, by the aid of a couple of free-kicks, worked out of danger, and the forwards executed some useful footwork. Clements, however, kicked to Smith, who put in a splendid touch-finder.

Lydney were having the best of the game, their forwards controlling the scrums in fine style. Baker and Jenkins opened out the game, and several rounds of passing by the Lydney backs were attempted, but the Gloucester defence was equal to the occasion, Humphries, Daniell and Smith shining in particular.

Gloucester were again helped by free-kicks through infringements, but could not get very far. Lodge and Merry took the ball at their feet, but Burns put in a good kick to touch. Gloucester were penalised, and Kerwood made an excellent attempt from the half-way line to land a penalty goal, the ball just falling short. Lydney again attacked vigorously, but they could not get very far, the visitors' defence being excellent.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	Nil
Lydney	Nil

In the second half Lydney were the first to attack, and the ball was well handled and taken to near the Gloucester line. From a scrum the home forwards heeled, and Jenkins passed out well, but Washbourn saved in capital style. Ayliffe and Mumford put in some useful footwork and took play to safer quarters. Kerwood however, gathered smartly, and kicked out of danger.

The game was now very fast, and the homesters tried their hardest to score, but the passing broke down at the critical moment. The ball went to Kerwood, who made a good attempt to drop a goal, but failed.

Smith kicked to Jenkins, who found touch in the Gloucester 25. The City forwards heeled, and Humphries and Burns worked out of danger.

A good piece of handling by Lydney deserved a score, but a knock-on with the defence beaten spoilt a fine chance. Biddle and Clements combined well, but one of the Lydney men knocked the corner flag down in the act of scoring, so another good chance was therefore lost. The City worked out of danger through a practical effort by Millington, who passed to Brown, and he found touch in the Lydney 25.

The City played up well and the forwards, headed by Lawson and Porter, took play to the Lydney end. G. Probert, however, saved by a useful run and kick. The visiting forwards heeled, and Humphries and Burns tried to open out the game, but Jenkins well tackled the latter before he could set the three-quarters going.

The City backs attempted passing and tested the Lydney defence. Lodge picked up in the loose and put in a useful kick to touch. The City were now playing up well, and took the ball near the Lydney line, but good defensive work kept them out. Lydney again took up the attack, but could not score, Smith's fielding and kicking being of a very high standard.

RESULT :

Gloucester	Nil
Lydney	Nil

REMARKS

Our Lydney correspondent remarks : –

The game was contested at a very fast pace, but in a large measure spoilt by so many free kicks to both sides through infringements. There was not the least doubt that Lydney would have won comfortably against a weaker defence, and the Gloucester backs were good in this respect.

The passing of the Lydney backs was not up to the usual standard, and several bouts were nipped in the bud very promptly by the City. The City backs had not much chance to shine in attack, as the Lydney forwards well held the scrums, but the visiting eight did some fine work in the loose, and displayed great keenness.

With the least bit of luck Lydney would have scored on two occasions, the one chance being spoilt by a knock on with the defence beaten, and the other through the corner flag being knocked down and the player's foot just going into touch.

Though not at full strength, Gloucester strained every nerve to keep the Tinplaters from scoring.

JC